WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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A topical composition comprising:

crape myrtle extract in an amount effective to improve the

a cosmetically acceptable vahicle.

- The composition of claim 1, wherein the crape myrtle extract is present in from about 0.0001 to about 15 wt% based on the total weight of the composition.
- The composition of λ laim 1, wherein the crape myrtle extract is present from about $0\$ 001 wt% to about 10 wt% based on the total weight of the composition.
 - The composition of \uparrow e aim 1, wherein the crape myrtle extract is obtained from the heaf cells of lagerstroemia speciosa.
 - The composition of claim, wherein the composition is 5. in a product form selected from the group consisting of aerosol, cake, cream, ointment, emulsion, essence, gel, lotion, shampoos,

conditioners, make-up, towelette, mask, paste, patch, pencil, serum, spray and stick.

6. The composition of claim 1, further comprising one or more additional ingredients selected from the group consisting of anesthetics, anti-allergenics, antimicrobials, antifungals, anti-inflammatories, antiseptics, chelating agents, colorants, depigmenting agents, empilients, emulsifiers, exfollients, fragrances, humectants, insect repellents, lubricants,
0 moisturizers, pharmaceutical agents, preservatives, skin penetration enhancers, skin protectants, stabilizers, sunscreens, surfactants, thickeners, viscosity modifiers, and vitamins.

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- 7. The composition of claim 1, further comprising one or more sunscreens.
- 8. The composition of claim 1, wherein the crape myrtle extract includes colosic acid.
 - 9. The composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one of vitamin A, vitamin C, and bioflavonoids.

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10. A method of improving the aesthetic appearance of skin, comprising topically applying to the skin:

a composition comprising an effective amount of crape 5 myrtle extract; and

a cosmetically acceptable vehicle.

The method of claim 10, wherein the crape myrtle extract is applied in an amount from about 0.0001 wt% to about 15 wt% based on the total weight of the composition.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein the crape myrtle extract is applied in an amount from about 0.001 wt% to about 10 wt% based on the total weight of the composition.

The method of claim 10 wherein the crape myrtle extract is applied to the skin at least once daily for a period of time sufficient to improve the aesthetic appearance of skin.

- 14. The method of claim 10, wherein the improvement in aesthetic appearance is selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) decreasing skin fragility;

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- c) preventing skin atrophy;
- d) promoting/accelerating cell turnover;
- improving skin/firmness/plumpness; 5 e)
 - improving skin/texture; f)
 - decreasing fixellines and/or wrinkles; g)
 - improving skin tone; h)
 - enhancing skin thackness; i)
 - restoring skin luster; j)
 - minimizing signs of tatigue; and k)
 - reducing skin dryness! 1)

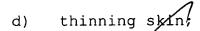
A method of preventing and/or ameliorating the effects of extrinsic and/or intrinsic\aging on skin comprising topically applying to the skin a composition comprising an effective amount of crape myrtle extract and a cosmetically acceptable wehicle.

The method of claim 18, wherein the effects of skin 20 aging are selected ffom the group consisting of:

- fragile ski a)
- b) sagging skin
- fine//lings and/or wrinkles; C)

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- lack-lyster skin; e)
- f) fatigued skin; and
- g) dry\skin.

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The method of claim 15, wherein the crape myrtle extract is applied to the \S kin at least once daily for a period of time sufficient to prevent and/or ameliorate the effects of skin aging.

The method of claim 18, wherein the intrinsic aging comprises chronological aging.

The method of claim 15, wherein the extrinsic aging comprises photoaging and/or the offects of pollution.

The method of claim 15 wherein the crape myrtle extract is applied to the kin in an amount from about 0.0001 wt% to about 15 wt% of the total composition.

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The method of claim 1/5, wherein the crape myrtle extract is applied in an amount from about 0.001 wt% to about 10 wt% based on the \not total weight of the composition.

- 22. A method of improving the aesthetic appearance of hair comprising applying to hair and/or scalp crape myrtle extract in an amount effective to improve the aesthetic appearance of hair.
- 5 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the improvement in aesthetic appearance of hair includes at least one of the following:
 - a) increasing hair thickness;
 - b) increasing rate of hair growth;
 - c) improving hair luster and shine;
 - d) improving manageability; and
 - e) overall hair health.
 - 24. The method of claim 22, wherein the crape myrtle extract is applied to the hair and/or scalp in a topical composition comprising a vehicle and from about 0.0001 wt% to about 15 wt% of crape myrtle extract.
- 25. The method of claim 22, wherein the crape myrtle

 20 extract is applied to the hair and/or scalp at least once per
 day for a period of time sufficient to improve the aesthetic
 appearance of the hair.

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